

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) An integrated address book clearinghouse interface stored on computer-readable storage medium, the integrated address book clearinghouse interface comprising:

a plurality of function modules, usable by a plurality of application programs for managing a plurality of address books that form an integrated address book clearinghouse, by performing functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse;

an encapsulation module for encapsulating in data envelopes requests for the performance of functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse and authorization to perform the requested functions;

an analyzing module for analyzing data envelopes to detect requests to perform functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse and authorization to perform such requested functions;

an address book function call module for generating function calls requesting the performance of functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse if such requested functions are authorized;

a function call processing module for processing function calls requesting the performance of functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse;

a function call response module for generating responses to processed function calls; and

a response encapsulation module for encapsulating in data envelopes responses to processed function calls and information identifying an address book of the plurality of address books on which a function call was carried out.

21. (New) An integrated address book clearinghouse interface as claimed in Claim 20 including an authorization module for seeking authority to authorize the requests for the performance of the functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse if a data envelope does not include authorization to perform the requests.

22. (New) An integrated address book clearinghouse interface as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the functions to be performed on the integrated address book clearinghouse include the addition of an address book to the integrated address book clearinghouse.

23. (New) An integrated address book clearinghouse interface as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the functions to be performed on the integrated address book clearinghouse include the modification of an address included in one or more of the plurality of address books that form the integrated address book clearinghouse.

24. (New) An integrated address book clearinghouse interface as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the functions to be performed on the integrated address book clearinghouse include the identification of all entries in the integrated address book clearinghouse that meet predetermined criteria.

25. (New) An integrated address book clearinghouse interface as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the plurality of address books that form the integrated address book clearinghouse are each associated with a particular user identity.

26. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse comprising:

generating a request to perform a function on the integrated address book clearinghouse, the function comprising one of a plurality of functions usable by a plurality of application

programs for managing the integrated address book clearinghouse, the integrated address book clearinghouse comprising a plurality of address books;

determining if the request to perform the function on the integrated address book clearinghouse also includes authorization to perform the request;

performing the requested function on the integrated address book clearinghouse if the request includes the authorization to perform the request;

generating a response to the request after the request is performed, the response including information that identifies the address book of the plurality of address books on which the requested function was performed; and

sending the response to the source of the request.

27. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the request to perform a function on an integrated address book clearinghouse is:

generated by a client;

encapsulated in a data envelope; and

the data envelope sent to a server, which determines if the request to perform the function on the integrated address book clearinghouse also includes authorization to perform the request.

28. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse as claimed in Claim 26 wherein:

(a) generating the request to perform a function on an integrated address book clearinghouse is performed by a client; and

(b) a server:

(i) determines if the request to perform the function on the integrated address book clearinghouse also includes authorization to perform the request;

(ii) if the request includes authorization to perform the request, performs the requested function on the integrated address book clearinghouse;

(iii) after the request is performed, generates a response to the request, the response including information that identifies the address book of the plurality of address books on which the request was performed; and

(iv) sends the response to the source of the request, i.e., the client.

29. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse as claimed in Claim 26, wherein if the request does not include authorization to perform the request, seeking authorization to perform the request.

30. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse as claimed in Claim 29, wherein seeking authorization to perform the request comprises:

redirecting the request to perform a function on the integrated address book clearinghouse to an authorization source;

requesting the authorization source authorization to perform the requested function on the integrated address book clearinghouse; and

if the authorization request is granted by the authorization source, adding the authorization to the request to perform a function on the integrated address book clearinghouse.

31. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the plurality of functions include adding an address book to the integrated address book clearinghouse.

32. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the plurality of functions include modifying one or more of the plurality of address books forming the integrated address book clearinghouse.

33. (New) A computer-implemented method for managing an integrated address book clearinghouse as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the plurality of functions include an identification of all entries in the integrated address book clearinghouse meeting predetermined criteria.

34. (New) A computer system comprising:

(a) a plurality of clients, each of the clients including at least one application program capable of:

(i) accessing a plurality of functions associated with the at least one application, the plurality of functions managing a plurality of user controlled address books, the plurality of user controlled address books forming an integrated address book clearinghouse; and

(ii) generating a request to perform a function on the integrated address book clearinghouse and authorization to perform the request; and

(b) a server arrangement for:

(i) storing the integrated address book clearinghouse;

(ii) receiving requests from the plurality of clients to perform functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse;

(iii) examining received requests to perform functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse to determine if the requests also include authorization to perform the requests;

(iv) performing a function if a received request includes authorization to perform the function on the integrated address book clearinghouse; and

(v) reporting the performance of the function to the client that generated the request to perform the function on the integrated address book clearinghouse, the reporting including information identifying a user controlled address book of the plurality of user controlled address books on which the function was performed.

35. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 34, wherein if the received request does not include authorization to perform the requested function, the server arrangement seeks authorization to perform the requested function from an authorization source.

36. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the server arrangement includes:

- a storage server for storing the integrated address book clearinghouse; and
- a separate control server for receiving requests to perform functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse from the plurality of clients, examining received requests to perform functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse to determine if the requests also include authorization to perform the requested functions, performing the requested functions, and reporting the performance of a requested function to the client that generated the request, the reporting including information identifying a user controlled address book of the plurality of user controlled address books on which the function was performed.

37. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the plurality of functions include the addition of a user controlled address book to the integrated address book clearinghouse.

38. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the plurality of functions include modifying the content of one or more of the user controlled address books that form the integrated address book clearinghouse.

39. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the plurality of functions include the identification of all entries in the integrated address book clearinghouse that meet predetermined criteria.

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